

# News-Courier

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RIVERS, ARIZONA

September 12, 1942

## Statement from Lafe Nelson

You will be interested to know that plans are under way for the opening of schools for your benefit. Teachers are being hired, courses are being planned, supplies and equipment are on the way, and we hope to open school on October 1st. It will be necessary to begin school in Barrack rooms. Block 51 has been set aside for Elementary Schools and block 53 for High School in the Butte Camp. Block 13 has been set aside in the Canal Camp for school purposes.

Our High Objective in our Educational program will be to teach the beauties of a Democracy. We expect to do our best as teachers for a worthwhile school program this term. Support and interest from parents and patrons will be deeply appreciated.

Let us hope together that the troubles of the world will soon be over and that we shall again live in Peace and Happiness. With good wishes, I am

Yours very truly,  
Lafe Nelson, Superintendent of Schools

## School Program Well Underway

Under the able direction of Lafe Nelson, Superintendent of Schools in the Gila Relocation Center, the educational system of the Canal and Butte Camps is making rapid progress despite numerous difficulties.

Although reservations have been made for school buildings, temporary barracks in Blocks 51 and 52 will be used for the elementary and high school students. These departments are under the supervision of Roe Strickland  
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## LATEST ARRIVALS SWELL POPULATION OF COLONY

With the last contingent of 400 evacuees arriving from Tulare Assembly Center on Sept. 5, the total population of Gila Relocation Center became 11,550, as computed by the Housing office staff. Of the grand total, 6154 are residing at Butte Camp and 5396 at the Canal Camp.

## Morton Gaba CAS Director

"Community Activities Section embraces the leisure time activities of the people. The Community Activities Section (CAS) covers such activities as, athletic and group work, community library, and entertainment. Offices are maintained in the two camps, being located in Recreational Hall 13 at Canal Camp, and 56 in Butte Camp.

Specialists in all leisure time activities, their job is to assist the people in making their work free, more pleasant, more interesting and more worthwhile.

Community Activities Section program is set up by the administration so that we can serve the people and exercise their wishes in compliance with a majority policy."

Morton J. Gaba  
CAS Director

## 'RIVERS' HONORS PIMA INDIAN

Residents of the Canal and Butte Camps may wonder why a dry place like this is called "Rivers".

Well, there's a little story involved in this name. This place was not originally called Rivers as thought by everyone.

Back in 1916 during World War I, the first Pima Indian was killed in action. His name was Jim Rivera.

So, in honor of Rivers, this place was given the same name by the War Relocation Authorities.

The birth of this center was marked on July 26 when the first 500 of the 3572 Turlock Assembly Center residents landed at Canal Camp. On August 21, the initial 500 of Tulare's 4942 evacuees came to Gila. Free zone, internee releases the two Assembly Center citizens and non-citizens comprise the remaining 3036.

The housing of all the people was directed by John C. Henderson, head of the Housing and Employment, and Bob Easton, Assistant Housing Director.

## Temporary Blocks

According to Henderson, the Blocks 73, 74, 51, and 58 of Butte Camp are not permanent. Blocks 73 and 74 are reserved for hospital workers, while 51 and 58 will be temporary grammar school and high school respectively.

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## WORK BEGUN ON NETTING PROJECT

Citizens of the Rivers Camps will be doing their share towards helping in the nation's war efforts as soon as the camouflage netting factory is completed.

Construction is now underway west of Block 61 in Butte Camp. This project is similar to those launched in other centers.

Contrary to the rumor that unemployed persons will be drafted, all work will be on the voluntary basis and workers will receive compensation under skilled rating.

Adult-bodied evacuees who are citizens of the United States are eligible to apply for work.

Further details will be released later.